



LIFE Notes

LIFECHURCH January 2012

A Fresh Start

From Pastor Mike



Pastor Mike Lemp

Whether 2011 was a good year for you or a bad year, the reality is, it's over. What happened last year is the past and it's time for a fresh start. Our future is in front of us, and we must go into 2012 with our eyes wide-open, in anticipation of all that God is going to do through us, so we can grasp everything that God is trying to show us.

The Bible says God cares about our future. In fact, He is much more interested in our future than our past. Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

This time of year, people are often making resolutions. They are trying to change the way they do things, lose a little weight, start exercising, find a quick fix, etc. As most of us know firsthand, determination borne of excitement doesn't last very long. So, as the new year begins, I like take a different approach. I view it as a launching pad into my destiny...a time to spring forward by energizing my faith. It's a time when we can all have a vision for our future and set goals to be all that God has designed us to be. We serve a big God, so why not formulate big goals? Goals are simply statements of faith—

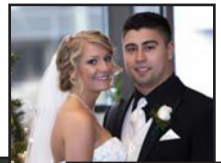
like dreams with a deadline that our God and Father will help us achieve. With goals, we can choose to go through the next 12 months by design, not by default. If we set goals, then all of our decisions, actions, and thoughts will lead to a desired end. On the other hand, if we bumble along in life without specific aims and goals, we will wander around, wasting time and energy.

The new year is also time for us to stretch ourselves and launch into new territories. Being all God has called us to be requires growth, and growth is hard...it requires faith. The Bible reminds us that the key to changing anything is faith. If you want to change your circumstance, it takes faith; if you want to make changes to your personality, it takes faith; if you want to change anything in your life, it takes faith. Matthew 9:29 "According to your faith it will be done to you."

Imagine the impact our lives could have if we ask God to guide our goals. Ask Him today, "What do you want to change about my life? What do you want to accomplish through me? What do you want me to focus on?" We are created to glorify the Lord and accomplish great things for Him, so let's ask Him for direction.

I believe 2012 will be a great year—not only for me, but for our church as well. I challenge you to be proactive about your future. Step out in faith. Set goals that are so big, you have no choice but to depend on God. Then don't rely on yourself, but trust God to help you succeed. I've found in my life that God shows up when I have no Plan B. Don't waste any time. Start today.

The Falcons



Bret and Susan Delaney



The Hills



The Wisemans

Who's Who?

Meet the Delaneys

Bret and Susan Delaney moved from Kansas City to Kirkwood, MO near the end of 2010. When considering cities to move to, St. Louis was actually one of three cities that Susan told God was NOT on "her list." (There's nothing like giving God a "never" to make sure that's exactly what happens!) Soon after moving to the area, the Delaneys started looking for a church and found us. They immediately felt as if they were home and started attending regularly in April 2011.

It seems as if this couple started serving the same day they began to attend services. They are both absolutely amazing—true servants of the house, available every time we have a need. Bret and Susan have been involved in our most recent semester of LIFE Groups; Susan serves on the intercessory prayer team; and Bret said he could tell us where he serves, but then he'd have to do us in. If you get know Bret at all, you wouldn't be surprised by his response to our question. Quick, dry wit is his specialty!

(continued)

In Kansas City, the Delaneys owned their own photography studio for over 20 years, so they can often be found helping us take pictures of church events. Bret now works from home as an IT support technician for Novell, and Susan utilizes her 23-years of prior employment experience at a large Kansas City church to help us in the office several days a week.

The couple has three grown daughters, three sons-in-law, and four grandchildren: Alli and Ian Hill, parents of Blaine and Dakota; Cassie and Jake Wiseman, parents of Kale and Kohen; and Emily and Nick Falcon. Alli and Cassie's families are also treasured members of our LIFECHURCH family. Emily and Nick are still living in Kansas City as Nick is training to become a United States Marine.

We truly can't seem to say enough about this beautiful family. We hope you'll introduce yourselves to them the next time you see them around, and prepare to be blessed by just getting to know them!

Spotlight Ministry

THE PANTRY A MINISTRY OF LIFECHURCH

The Pantry is currently feeding almost 200 families—providing over 6,000 pounds of food, Bibles, fellowship, prayer, and hope through the love of Christ. Throughout the 2011 holiday season, we fed over 100 families, and our food pantry was noted as one of the few that gave out turkeys and hams.

Our food pantry also has a unique approach to providing the food to our guests by providing people with a personal shopping assistant and allowing them the freedom to choose their own groceries, as opposed to receiving a standard bag of preselected items.

It has been reported that many who received food have also either visited or are now attending our church on a regular basis. Our pantry supervisor, Mary Hollis, has received several phone calls from people who are telling her how much they love our pastor's messages and our church. The Pantry is looking forward to feeding many, many more as we start this exciting new year.

We are able to have this impact on our community only through the grace of God and the help of our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to all who so selflessly give of your time and talents, as well as to the generous givers who donate to this awesome outreach, enabling us to be a blessing to those in need.

The Pantry usually gives out food twice a month. They are always looking for volunteers to donate food and to help out on work days, distribution days, and pick-up

days. If you are interested in helping in this ministry, please call Janie Sims for pantry work dates and details at 314-843-5575, extension 189. And, if you know of anyone who is in need of food, please get that information to us as well.

For more information on this ministry, visit the "Outreach" tab on our Website and click on "Food Pantry."

Doing LIFE Together

Notable Outreaches

LIFECHURCH CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

We are teaming with the Fenton Fire and Police Departments to offer emergency response training. This training will develop a team of people in our area who will be trained and ready to help others should an emergency situation arise in our community.

Requirements for this team are to successfully complete four, five-hour training courses. All of the trainings will take place on specific Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Three of these courses will be held at the church (Jan. 14, Jan. 28, and Feb. 11) and one will be held at the Fenton Fire Department (Feb. 25). ONE session can be missed, as long as you are able to attend the make-up session at the Fire Department on Saturday, February 18.

Anyone who is interested in being part of this team can find out more details on our Website under Outreach/Disaster Relief. You may also register online to attend these training sessions.

LIFE Groups are Coming!

If you are interested in LEADING a LIFE Group during our upcoming semester, please visit the Ministries/LIFE Groups page of our Website and register online.

Group LEADER registrations will take place January 1 through January 22. Group attendee sign-ups will begin Sunday, January 29.

Upcoming Services

Sunday, January 1 – Pastor Rick

Tuesday, January 3 – Pastor Matt

Sunday, January 8 – Pastor Rick

Tuesday, January 10 – Pastor Shaun

Sunday, January 15 – Pastor Josh

Tuesday, January 17 – Pat Bradley

Sunday, January 22 – Pastor Rick

Tuesday, January 24 – Worship Night

Sunday, January 29 – Pastor Rick

Tuesday, January 31 – Pastor Jim Laffoon

Calendar of Events

Jan 1

ONE Morning Service
11:00 a.m. ONLY

New Year's Day Celebration
6:00 p.m.
With special musical guest:
An Epic, No Less

Jan 8

Membership Classes
(Foundations Classes are a prerequisite.
Contact Pastor Don)
Administration Office
9:30 a.m.

Jan 13

LIFECHURCH Women
{be}loved – Heart of Life
7:00 p.m. at LIFECHURCH

Jan 14

LIFECHURCH CERT
Training Day 1 of 4
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
at LIFECHURCH

Jan 21

Crosswalk Volunteer Breakfast
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
at LIFECHURCH (pantry building)

JOYs Monthly Fellowship Luncheon
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
in LAUNCH multipurpose area

Ignite Youth to Winter Jam
Cost: \$10 (plus spending money)
Meet at LIFECHURCH at 4:00 p.m. and
carpool to the St. Charles Family Arena

Jan 28

LIFECHURCH CERT
Training Day 2 of 4
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
at LIFECHURCH

Remember to visit our Website often at
www.lifechurch-stl.com and click on the
"Events" tab for more great things to add to
your calendar!